Storage capacity of FCI and State Corporations

1671. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the storage capacity owned or hired by the Food Corporation of India and State Corporations;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains stored as of now in covered godowns and in open; and

(c) how Government envisage to protect the foodgrains stored in open from vagaries of nature and by when the country would have 100 per cent covered storage space for foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (d) The total storage capacity of Food Corporation of India as on 1.6.2002 is 381.43 lakh tonnes (Owned & hired/Covered and CAP). The quantity of foodgrains stored in Covered & CAP godowns is as under:—

(*Figures in Lakh Tonnes*)

	Covered			CAP (Open)			Grand
	Owned	Hired	Total	Owned	Hired	Total	Total
Capacity	127.66	170.25	297.91	24.20	59.32	83.52	381.43
Stocks held	111.46	160.63	272.09	20.00	48.64	68.64	340.73

At present there are no State Food Corporations in the country.

(c) On account of acute paucity of covered storage accommodation as also movement constraints, the Food Corporation of India stores wheat and paddy in the open under scientifically designed system for temporary storage called CAP (Covered and Plinth). Following steps are taken to protect the foodgrains stored in CAP:—

(a) Stocks are stored on proper dunnage like wooden crates, rafters, cement blocks etc. and covered with specifically fabricated low density black polythene covers which are water proof so as to protect the foodgrains from rains.

(b) Nylon ropes/nets are provided for proper lashing of polythene covers to prevent damage due to ballooning of covers during high velocity winds, etc.

(c) Polythene covers, monofilament nets, cover taps etc. are procured in advance so that the stocks kept in CAP are protected from the vagaries of weather.

(d) Qualified and technically trained staff is deployed for periodic inspections and proper upkeep of foodgrains.

(e) Pest control measures are undertaken regularly.

(f) Arrangements are made to keep sufficient quantity of chemicals at each depot/storage point for prophylactic and curative treatments.

Efforts are continuously being made to create more covered storage space keeping in view the requirement and also the availability of resources. No time-frame can be set up in this context.

Poor quality of foodgrains and sugar for PDS and TPDS

1672. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that contrary to the claim of FCI, the quality of foodgrains and sugar issued for distribution under PDS and targeted PDS is very poor, particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure that only good quality foodgrains and sugar are supplied for PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Foodgrains of fair average quality, conforming to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) standards are distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS). Sugar distributed under the PDS conforms to the India Sugar Standards (ISS).

In recent past, Government of Gujarat, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi complained about the supply of luster lost wheat and poor quality of foodgrains supplied under TPDS. It has been explained to the State Governments that except in appearance, lustre lost wheat is as good as sound wheat, specially in terms of nutritional value. The FCI officers have been instructed to ensure supply of good quality of foodgrains for distribution